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Paula O'Neal and Lee Freeland with some of the toys we collected at last year's holiday party.

ROTARYgrams

Photo by Steve Buser

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BEAUMONT VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU



Texas Tourism is a multi-billion dollar industry. It is a vital part of state and local economies. Most recent data shows that travel spending directly supports 491,300 jobs with earnings of \$13.8 billion. Travel spending generates the greatest number of jobs in food services, arts, entertainment, recreation and accommodations.

So, how does Beaumont tap into this

lucrative industry? How can your local businesses be involved and reap economic benefits? How can the Beaumont CVB help you train front line employees to speak Texas Friendly and improve your customer service, for FREE?

Get the inside scoop from **Dean Conwell** and Javier Rodriguez on free services and tourism development programs from the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Dean is Executive Director for the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau. Tourism runs in Dean's blood, he is the son of Texas tourism pioneer, Bob Conwell, a founding father of the

Discover Texas Association, now known as the Texas Travel Industry Association. Bob Conwell also served as the Executive Director for the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau.

He graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, he began his professional career working for South-west Shows, a producer of trade and consumer shows. He has served as Director of Tourism working in corporate and national association sales for the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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Chicken Cordon Bleu & Catfish Ponchatrain

2005 Holiday Party
Wednesday, December 14th at noon - Beaumont Country Club
Please make your reservation at Rotary meetings or call the Rotary Office, 842-1913
Bring an unwrapped toy to place under the tree
Guests welcome!

ROTARY CLUB OF BEAUMONT OFFICERS

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 Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 409-842-1913 • Fax: 409-842-5613
 rotarybmt1@yahoo.com
 Meets Wednesdays at Noon
 MCM Elegante' Hotel • International Ballroom
 2355 IH-10 South

Future Programs

December
 14th Holiday Party
 No meeting Christmas week
 or New Years week

Make-ups

Monday:

No. Port ArthurHoliday Inn Hwy 69
 Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:

Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.
 Orange.....Sunset Grove
 Port Neches.....Pompano Club

Wednesday:

Groves.....Pompano Club

Thursday:

Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:

Nederland.....Sanderson's

On-line: www.rotaryclubone.org
 (limit 3 times in each quarter)

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Before coming to the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau as Executive Director, Dean was employed by AMLink Technology as their Director of Marketing.

Dean brings over 15 years of tourism experience to Beaumont. Most recently, he earned his Certified Destination Marketing Executive (CDME) accreditation from Destination Marketing Association International, also known as the International Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus (IACVB).

He is a proud father of two sons, Chris and Alex.

Javier Rodriguez, Director of Tourism for the Beaumont Convention & Visitors Bureau, began his career in South Padre Island where he served as Tourism Sales Manager. He then served as Travel Industry Sales Coordinator for the Texas Department of Commerce Tourism Division (now known as the Office of the Governor Economic Development and Tourism) and later as Director of Tourism for the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Rodriguez is the recipient of the prestigious Gene Phillips Hospitality Award by the Texas Department of Transportation Travel Division. He also received the 1997 and 2003 Employee of the Year for the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau.

He is a member of the National Tour Association, the American Bus Association, the Texas Travel Industry Association where he coordinates an educational program for TXDOT and AAA Travel Counselors statewide.

He has been in the tourism and hospitality industry for over 20 years. Javier celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary last June to his wife Rosie, they have two daughters and 2 granddaughters and 1 grandson.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome two new members who were introduced during the November 30th meeting:



Don Burns

District Executive
 Boy Scouts of America
 "Assns: Boy Scouts"

Don was proposed by **Alan Sampson**.



Scott Childers

Regional Vice President - Philanthropy
 Christus Health Southeast Texas
 "Medical - Philanthropy"

Born in Columbus, Ohio, he is a graduate of North Texas State University. He and his wife Juliet are the parents of Jacqueline and Walker. He enjoys playing golf. Scott was a member of the Rotary Clubs of Louisville, Kentucky and Stuart, Florida and was proposed by **Allison Nathan Golias**.

REVIEW

Our speaker last week was very enthusiastic about the business climate in Texas. According to Cynthia Tauss, the Gulf Coast Regional Representative for the Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism Division (formerly the Texas Department of Commerce Tourism Division), the state is living up to its motto "Texas - Wide Open for Business."

She cited Texas' first place selection in 2004 State Business Climate Rankings as reported by trade publication *Site Selection*. For more information, visit www.texaswideopenforbusiness.com.

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Nominees for 2006 Election

The election of four Directors and one Trustee will be held during the December 7th meeting. Ballots will be distributed to members at the door and will be collected before the meeting is called to order. Please plan to come early so your vote can be counted.

Club Board of Directors

The following Rotarians have been nominated to fill four seats for three-year terms for our Club's Board of Directors.



Chad Blanchard

A member since February 2002, Chad is General Manager of Munro's Uniform Services. His classification is Laundering, Cleaning & Dyeing - Laundries



Vesta Brandt

A member since March 2002, Vesta is General Manager of Clear Channel Communications. Her classification is Broadcasting - Radio AM or FM.



George Crawford

A member since February 1994, George is Vice President & General Manager of Lamar Advertising. His classification is Publicity - Outdoor Advertising.



Joe Fisher, Jr.

A member since November 1981, Joe is Senior Vice President and Trust Officer of Texas State Bank. His classification is Brokerage - Trust Banking.



Randy Fluke

A member since January 2005, Randy was also a member of the Tahoka, Lubbock and Grayson

County Rotary Clubs. He is Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice.



Van Greer

A member since June 2004, Van was also a member of the Lufkin Rotary Club. He is Vice President & General Manager of KBTB. His classification is Television Broadcasting.



Billy Kinney

A member since June 1993, Billy is President of A-1 Acoustics, Inc. His classification is Construction - Drywall & Acoustical Ceilings Subcontracting.



David Locke

A member since April 1998, David is Senior Vice President of Lamar Bank. His classification is Brokerage - Consumer Lending.

Foundation Board of Trustees

We will also elect one Trustee from three nominees to serve a three-year term on our Foundation Board. Since the slate of nominees had not been confirmed as of press time, the Rotary Office will forward the information about the three nominees to all members with email addresses before Wednesday's meeting. If you do not have an email address, please call the Rotary Office (842-1913) to get the information verbally.

The terms for the Directors and the Trustee will begin July 1, 2006.

Please remember that no Rotarian shall canvas or campaign for an elected position in the Rotary Club of Beaumont or allow campaigning in his or her behalf.

BIRTHDAYS

Dec 8th Evelyn Lord (90)

Retired



Born in Melrose, Massachusetts, she is a graduate of Boston University, the University of Delaware and the University of Louisville School of Law. She and her husband **Sam** are the parents of Steven, Jonathan, Nathaniel, Victoria and William. Evelyn is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Dec 10th Dan Ward (03)

Vice President, ICU Environmental, Health & Safety



Born in Port Arthur, he is a graduate of the University of Houston. He and his wife Diane are the parents of Danielle and Holly, and are members of St. Therese, The Little Flower Catholic Church. He enjoys playing baseball and golf, coaching girls' softball and camping.

Dec 12th Marcia Crone (05)

District Judge, U.S. District Court



Born in Dallas, she attended Vanderbilt University and is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Houston Law Center. She and her husband Seth are the parents of Kimball and Kirby, and are members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. She enjoys traveling and reading.

Dec 13th Henry Strait (88)

President, Southeast TX Water Conditioning



Born in Russellville, Kentucky, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Fran are the parents of Harvey, April and Matthew, and are members of St. Anthony Cathedral. He enjoys flying and baseball.

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